IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 2, 10, 17, 18, and 21-24 in accordance with the following:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for supporting a trading of an odd lot that is less than a round lot stock number determined in every stock company, said method comprising:

receiving from a customer an odd lot selling order or an odd lot buying order for a particular stock company;

judging whether or not a number of total stocks of said odd lot selling orders or a number of total stocks of said odd lot buying orders received at said receiving is over a threshold value that is less than said round lot stock number and is determined by a predetermined rule; and

if it is judged at said judging that the number of total stocks of said odd lot selling orders or the number of total stocks of said odd lot buying orders is over said threshold, outputting a selling order of said round lot stock number defined for said particular stock company for said odd lot selling orders or a buying order of said round lot stock number defined for said particular stock company for said odd lot buying orders.

2. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 1<u>, further comprising:</u> ~~wherein~~ <u>determining said threshold value based on</u> said predetermined rule ~~is a rule~~ in which a trading fee of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders is equal to or higher than a risk amount for a stock number which is a difference between said round lot stock number and said threshold.

3. (Original) The method set forth in claim 2, wherein said risk amount is determined by a limited price range or a price itself.

4. (Original) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein said predetermined rule is a rule based on a trading volume of stocks of said particular stock company during a predetermined period.

5. (Previously Presented) The method set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

judging whether or not said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders that are received at said receiving is over said round lot stock number of said particular stock company;

if it is judged at said second judging that said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders is over said round lot stock number, providing a minimum number of ordered stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders to each customer who makes said odd lot buying order or said odd lot selling order; and

providing a number of remainder stocks that is calculated by subtracting a number of all stocks provided at said first providing from said round lot stock number to a customer who has a remainder of the order, according to a second predetermined rule.

6. (Previously Presented) The method set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

judging whether or not said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders that are received at said receiving is over said round lot stock number of said particular stock company;

if it is judged at said second judging that said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders is over said round lot stock number, judging whether or not it is possible to provide a minimum number of ordered stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders to each customer who makes said odd lot buying order or said odd lot selling order;

if it is judged at said third judging that it is impossible to provide, providing one stock to said each customer; and

providing a number of remainder stocks that is calculated by subtracting a number of all stocks provided at said first providing from said round lot stock number to a customer who has a remainder of the order, according to a second predetermined rule.

7. (Previously Presented) A method for supporting a trading of an odd lot that is less than a round lot stock number determined in every stock company, said method comprising:

judging whether or not a number of total stocks of odd lot buying orders or a number of total stocks of odd lot selling orders that are received from customers is over said round lot stock number of said particular stock company;

if it is judged at said judging that said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders is over said round lot stock number, judging whether or not it is possible to provide a minimum number of ordered

stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders to each customer who makes said odd lot buying order or said odd lot selling order;

if it is judged at said second judging that it is possible to provide, providing said minimum number of said ordered stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders to said each customer who makes said odd lot buying order or said odd lot selling order; and

providing a number of remainder stocks that is calculated by subtracting a number of all stocks provided at said first providing from said round lot stock number to a customer who has a remainder of the order, according to a second predetermined rule.

8. (Previously Presented) The method set forth in claim 7, further comprising:

if it is judged at said second judging that it is impossible to provide, providing one stock to said each customer; and

providing a number of remainder stocks that is calculated by subtracting a number of all stocks provided at said first providing from said round lot stock number to a customer who has a remainder of the order, according to a second predetermined rule.

9. (Previously Presented) A storage medium for storing a program for causing a computer to support a trading of an odd lot that is less than a round lot stock number determined in every stock company, said program comprising:

receiving from a customer an odd lot selling order or an odd lot buying order for a particular stock company;

judging whether or not a number of total stocks of said odd lot selling orders or a number of total stocks of said odd lot buying orders received at said receiving is over a threshold value that is less than said round lot stock number and is determined by a predetermined rule; and

if it is judged at said judging that the number of total stocks of said odd lot selling orders or the number of total stocks of said odd lot buying orders is over said threshold, outputting a selling order of said round lot stock number defined for said particular stock company for said odd lot selling orders or a buying order of said round lot stock number defined for said particular stock company for said odd lot buying orders.

10. (Currently Amended) The storage medium set forth in claim 9, the program further comprising:-wherein

determining the threshold value based on the predetermined rule-is-a-rule in which a trading fee of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders is equal to or higher than a risk amount for a stock number which is a difference between said round lot stock number and said threshold.

11. (Original) The storage medium set forth in claim 10, wherein said risk amount is determined by a limited price range or a price itself.

12. (Original) The storage medium set forth in claim 9, wherein said predetermined rule is a rule based on a trading volume of stocks of said particular stock company during a predetermined period.

13. (Previously Presented) The storage medium set forth in claim 9, said program further comprising:

judging whether or not said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders that are received at said receiving is over said round lot stock number of said particular stock company;

if it is judged at said second judging that said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders is over said round lot stock number, providing a minimum number of ordered stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders to each customer who makes said odd lot buying order or said odd lot selling order; and

providing a number of remainder stocks that is calculated by subtracting a number of all stocks provided at said first providing from said round lot stock number to a customer who has a remainder of the order, according to a second predetermined rule.

14. (Previously Presented) The storage medium set forth in claim 9, said program further comprising:

judging whether or not said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders that are received at said receiving is over said round lot stock number of said particular stock company;

if it is judged at said second judging that said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders is over said round lot stock number, judging whether or not it is possible to provide a minimum number of ordered stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders to each customer who makes said odd lot buying order or said odd lot selling order;

if it is judged at said third judging that it is impossible to provide, providing one stock to said each customer; and

providing a number of remainder stocks that is calculated by subtracting a number of all stocks provided at said first providing from said round lot stock number to a customer who has a

remainder of the order, according to a second predetermined rule.

15. (Previously Presented) A storage medium for storing a program for causing a computer to support a trading of an odd lot that is less than a round lot stock number determined in every stock company, said program comprising:

judging whether or not a number of total stocks of odd lot buying orders or a number of total stocks of odd lot selling orders that are received from customers is over said round lot stock number of said particular stock company;

if it is judged at said judging that said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders is over said round lot stock number, judging whether or not it is possible to provide a minimum number of ordered stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders to each customer who makes said odd lot buying order or said odd lot selling order;

if it is judged at said second judging that it is possible to provide, providing said minimum number of said ordered stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders to said each customer who makes said odd lot buying order or said odd lot selling order; and

providing a number of remainder stocks that is calculated by subtracting a number of all stocks provided at said first providing from said round lot stock number to a customer who has a remainder of the order, according to a second predetermined rule.

16. (Previously Presented) The storage medium set forth in claim 15, said program further comprising:

if it is judged at said second judging that it is impossible to provide, providing one stock to said each customer; and

providing a number of remainder stocks that is calculated by subtracting a number of all stocks provided at said first providing from said round lot stock number to a customer who has a remainder of the order, according to a second predetermined rule.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for supporting a trading of an odd lot that is less than a round lot stock number determined in every stock company, comprising:

~~means for~~a unit for receiving from a customer an odd lot selling order or an odd lot buying order for a particular stock company;

~~means for~~a unit for judging whether or not a number of total stocks of said odd lot selling orders or a number of total stocks of said odd lot buying orders received by said ~~means~~unit for receiving is over a threshold value that is less than said round lot stock number and is determined by a predetermined rule; and

means for a unit for outputting a selling order of said round lot stock number defined for said particular stock company for said odd lot selling orders or a buying order of said round lot stock number defined for said particular stock company for said odd lot buying orders if it is judged by said means unit for judging that the number of total stocks of said odd lot selling orders or the number of total stocks of said odd lot buying orders is over said threshold.

18. (Currently Amended) The system set forth in claim 17, wherein said threshold value is determined based on said predetermined rule is a rule in which a trading fee of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders is equal to or higher than a risk amount for a stock number which is a difference between said round lot stock number and said threshold.

19. (Original) The system set forth in claim 18, wherein said risk amount is determined by a limited price range or a price itself.

20. (Original) The system set forth in claim 17, wherein said predetermined rule is a rule based on a trading volume of stocks of said particular stock company during a predetermined period.

21. (Currently Amended) The system set forth in claim 18, further comprising:

a second judging means unit for judging whether or not said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders that are received by said means for receiving is over said round lot stock number of said particular stock company;

a first providing means unit for providing a minimum number of ordered stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders to each customer who makes said odd lot buying order or said odd lot selling order if it is judged by said second judging means unit that said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders is over said round lot stock number; and

a second providing means unit for providing a number of remainder stocks that is calculated by subtracting a number of all stocks provided by said first providing means unit from said round lot stock number to a customer who has a remainder of the order, according to a second predetermined rule.

22. (Currently Amended) The system set forth in claim 17, further comprising:

a second judging means unit for judging whether or not said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders that

are received by said means-unit for receiving is over said round lot stock number of said particular stock company;

a third judging means-unit for judging whether or not it is possible to provide a minimum number of ordered stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders to each customer who makes said odd lot buying order or said odd lot selling order if it is judged by said second judging means-unit that said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders is over said round lot stock number;

a first providing means-unit for providing one stock to said each customer if it is judged at said third judging means-unit that it is impossible to provide; and

a second providing means-unit for providing a number of remainder stocks that is calculated by subtracting a number of all stocks provided by said first providing means-unit from said round lot stock number to a customer who has a remainder of the order, according to a second predetermined rule.

23. (Currently Amended) A system for supporting a trading of an odd lot that is less than a round lot stock number determined in every stock company, comprising:

a first judging means-unit for judging whether or not a number of total stocks of odd lot buying orders or a number of total stocks of odd lot selling orders that are received from customers is over said round lot stock number of said particular stock company;

a second means-judging unit for judging whether or not it is possible to provide a minimum number of ordered stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders to each customer who makes said odd lot buying order or said odd lot selling order if it is judged by said first judging means-unit that said number of said total stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said number of said total stocks of said odd lot selling orders is over said round lot stock number;

a first providing means-unit for providing said minimum number of said ordered stocks of said odd lot buying orders or said odd lot selling orders to said each customer who makes said odd lot buying order or said odd lot selling order if it is judged by said second judging means-unit that it is possible to provide; and

a second providing means-unit for providing a number of remainder stocks that is calculated by subtracting a number of all stocks provided at said first providing from said round lot stock number to a customer who has a remainder of the order, according to a second predetermined rule.

24. (Currently Amended) The system set forth in claim 23, further comprising:

a third providing means-unit for providing one stock to said each customer if it is judged by said second judging means that it is impossible to provide; and

a fourth providing means-unit for providing a number of remainder stocks that is calculated by subtracting a number of all stocks provided at said first providing from said round lot stock number to a customer who has a remainder of the order, according to a second predetermined rule.